Amendments to the Specification:

Page 1, delete line 1 as follows:

~~Description~~.

Page 1, replace the title in line 2 as follows:

~~Support part with fixing pin~~ SUPPORT PART WITH FIXING PIN.

Page 1, between lines 2 and 4, insert

-- Background of the Invention:

Field of the Invention: --.

Page 1, replace the paragraph beginning on line 21 with:

--In particular in the case of a support part made of plastic, fixing pins are integrally extruded on the support plate for this purpose. Such a support part in the form of a single-layer sheet-metal gasket with securing elements integrally formed in one piece has been disclosed by German Published, Non-Prosecuted Patent Application DE 100 13 130 A1, corresponding to United States Patent Publication 2002/015,617 to Schwenkel et al. The securing elements, which in the fitted state in each case pass through a drill hole of a machine component in the form of an intake manifold flange, engage behind the opening edge of the corresponding drill hole by ~~means of~~ their projections provided for this purpose at the free end, so that the metal gasket, on account of its one-

piece connection with the securing elements, is held on the flange-like machine component.--.

Page 1, replace the paragraph beginning on line 36 with:
--In a cylinder head gasket for piston engines which is disclosed by German Published, Non-Prosecuted Patent Application DE 33 21 425 A1, corresponding to United States Patent 4,524,979 to Bauder, the cylinder head gasket is fixed in position relative to a cylinder block by fixing bushes which are firmly connected by ~~means of~~ upset or beaded edges to the plate forming the cylinder head gasket. In the fitted state, the fixing bushes engage with friction grip in corresponding blind holes of a cylinder block.--.

Page 2, between lines 4 and 6, insert:
-- Summary of the Invention: --.

Page 2, replace the paragraph beginning on line 9 with:
--This object is achieved according to the invention by the features of ~~claim 1~~ the claims. To this end, the fixing pin has a bottom insertion section and a center shank section and also a top retaining section with a number of retaining teeth of different length. In the fitted state, the or each comparatively long retaining tooth overlaps an associated hole edge of the locating hole of the support part at the top,

whereas the or each comparatively short retaining tooth, at the opposite underside of the hole edge, undercuts or engages behind the latter. This is achieved in that the outside or circumferential diameter of the fixing pin in the end region of the comparatively short retaining teeth is greater than the hole diameter of the locating hole.--.

Page 2, replace the paragraph beginning on line 37 with:
--The fixing pins are expediently fixed in the locating holes ~~assigned to~~ associated with them by ~~means of~~ a snap connection. To this end, the retaining teeth of the fixing pin are advantageously bent at least slightly outward and are at the same time elastic. As a result of the comparatively short retaining teeth being bent outward, the circumferential diameter of the fixing pin at the free end of the comparatively short retaining teeth is greater than the hole diameter of the locating hole.--.

Page 6, replace the paragraph beginning on line 16 with:
--Exemplary embodiments of the invention are explained in more detail below with reference to ~~a drawing, in which:~~ the drawings.

Brief Description of the Drawings: --.

Page 7, between lines 18 and 20, insert the following heading:

-- Description of the Preferred Embodiments: --.

Page 14, amend the top line as follows:

-- ~~Claims~~ I Claim: --.

Page 17, amend the top line as follows:

-- ~~Abstract~~ Abstract of the Disclosure --.

Page 17, delete line 13: ~~Fig. 1~~.

Pages 18 and 19, please delete the entire text as follows:

~~List of designations~~

~~1 Fixing pin~~

~~1a Retaining section~~

~~1b Shank section~~

~~1c Insertion section~~

~~2 Locating hole~~

~~3 Support part~~

~~4 Sealing lip~~

~~5 Spacer/reinforcement~~

~~6 Mounting part/substructure~~

~~7 Sealing surface~~

~~8 Hole~~

~~9 Sealing surface~~

~~10 Pin longitudinal direction~~

~~11 Center longitudinal axis~~

~~12 Long retaining tooth~~

~~13 Short retaining tooth~~

~~14 Retaining lug~~

~~15 Hole edge~~

~~15a Hole seating surface~~

~~15b Hole bearing surface~~

~~17 Tooth end~~

~~18 Prominence~~

~~19 Bevel~~

~~20 Push-in arm~~

~~21 Recess~~

~~22 Radial clearance~~

~~23 Hole wall~~

~~24 Longitudinal slot~~

~~25 Lug~~

~~26 Slot/gap~~

~~27 Ring~~

~~□ Angle~~

~~A Hole diameter~~

~~B Outside diameter~~

~~C --- Circumferential diameter~~

~~D --- Shank outside diameter~~

~~F --- Spring force~~

~~F_{ax} --- Axial component~~

~~F_{rad} --- Radial component~~

~~L --- Difference in length~~

~~d --- Thickness of support part~~